



Ideas

Good writers elaborate on ideas and details to paint a meaningful picture for the reader.

- A. Two students wrote letters to their principal. Read the letters and answer the question.

Dear Ms. Wong,

We want the Writer's Club to come back. We used to have fun. Now we don't have anyplace to meet, and it's hard to find times to get together. Some teachers said they could help. We need to meet sometime at school.

Sincerely,
Pat Johnston

Dear Ms. Wong,

We don't want the Writer's Club to end. The other club members and I used to have fun after school, thinking of plots and characters. Now there's nowhere for us to meet. We want to talk about our stories and read each other's work, but we live miles from each other. There's no way to get together after school except for the Writer's Club. Mr. Gonzales and Ms. Zane have both said we can use their rooms.

Sincerely,
Rula Paz

Which writer did a better job of elaborating? Give at least two examples of specific details to support your answer.

- B. Use proofreading marks to correct the double negatives in these sentences.

1. The students don't live nowhere near each other.
2. We're not never going to have a place to meet.



Look for ways to elaborate on your ideas by making your details and examples more specific.

- A. Read this short essay. The words in **bold** are not very specific. How could the writer have elaborated more on her ideas? Use the chart below to write more specific examples the writer might have included instead.

Photographs are a good way to help remember **things**. **Important events** in my life are shown through photos. Photos help me remember the **fun times** with my friends.

Too General	More Specific
things	
important events	
fun times	

- B. Rewrite each sentence to fix the double negative.

1. I couldn't never give up my camera.

2. Stacey doesn't want nobody to take her picture.

3. There's not nothing better than taking pictures.

Name: _____

Week 4 • Day 3



Elaborate on your ideas to be persuasive. Use specific details and examples that support your argument.

- A. Read Joey's first draft of a letter to a newspaper. Use proofreading marks to fix any sentences that have double negatives. Then underline vague words and phrases that Joey could improve to provide details that support his argument.

Dear Editor:

I heard that the city wants to close the Bevington Library because it doesn't have no more money to pay the staff or buy no more books. We need to keep the library open. My family uses the library a lot. We check out lots of things. We go there a lot in the summer. Whenever I write a report, people help me find information there. If the library closes, where will kids go?

- B. Read Joey's revision. Underline the specific details and examples he added to support his argument.

I heard that the city wants to close the Bevington Library because it doesn't have anymore money to pay the staff or buy anymore books. We need to keep the library open so students like me can use it. My family goes to the library every Saturday. My dad checks out books to read, and my brothers rent CDs and DVDs that they can't afford to buy. In the summer, my sister and I always join the reading program and earn prizes for reading books. And, whenever I need to write a report, Mr. Jue helps me find tons of information about my topic. If the library closes, where will kids go to get help like that?

- C. Imagine that a library in your area has to close. Write two reasons why you think it shouldn't.

Name: _____

Week 4 • Day 4



When you want to be persuasive, choose meaningful details that support your reasons.

Think of a change you would like to see in your community or school and prepare to write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper about it. Use the questions below to plan your ideas.

1. What change or action would you like to see taken?

2. Why is this change or action necessary?

3. How could the change or action take place? Who would be involved?

4. Who might be against the idea? What would you say to them?
